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RUMANIA

PERSECUTIONS

In one of the M.A.I. Labor Camps (Colonia de Munca a Ministerului de Interne,) nine prisoners were killed by the guards on 28 June, when allegedly attempting to escape. Said camp is situated in SIUT-GHIOL, in a place called "PEN-INSULA."

During the same period a number of similar incidents occurred in the labor camps situated between CERNAVODA and NAVODARI. The guards, members of political police, Securitatea, are paid a premium of 25,000 Lei and receive on month's holiday for each prisoner caught or killed during an attempt to escape. If the flight is successful, four relatives of the escapee are arrested at once and must replace him in the forced labor camp.

The guards, anxious to obtain the high reward, sometimes stage such "attempts to escape," and kill prisoners in cold blood. A young university student from TORNU MAGURELE was killed in POARTA ALBA on 6 March 1951. He was ordered to measure the dimensions of a certain place with a measuring tape. While one of the guards urged him to hurry, another shot him in the back.

A similar incident occurred in TASAUL on 16 March. One of the convicts, a former army colonel suffering from dysentery, was shot by a guard when he left his labor unit for a moment.

In the labor colony in TATAIA, on 9 February, three bodies of young prisoners were found in the barbed wire barricade surrounding the camp. The guards declared that the men had been surprised in an attempt to escape.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: March - June 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable;  
Information: probably true. Similar incidents reported by other sources.